



**MISSISSIPPI**  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH**

*Communications  
and Public Relations*

2423 North State Street  
Post Office Box 1700  
Jackson, Mississippi  
39215-1700

601/576-7667  
601/576-7517 FAX

F. E. Thompson, Jr., MD, MPH  
State Health Officer

# NEWS Release

**Immediate Release**

**Topic:** New Leadership in West Central  
Public Health District V  
**Date:** July 17, 2000  
**Contact:** Kelly Ann Shannon

Robert Hotchkiss, MD, is the new District Health Officer for West Central Public Health District V, headquartered in Jackson.

The former director of Community Health Services for the Department will apply his extensive public health experience to leading the ten-county district. Don Grillo, MD, retired in June 2000 after having served as district health officer for the Jackson Metro Area since 1989.

"The agency is fortunate to have a physician of Dr. Hotchkiss's caliber to assume this responsibility," said State Health Officer Ed Thompson, MD. "His depth and breadth of experience and training make him well-suited to take on the responsibility of the state's largest public health district."

Hotchkiss' new assignment covers Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Issaquena, Madison, Rankin, Sharkey, Simpson, Warren, and Yazoo Counties.

The Little Rock, Arkansas, native earned both his undergraduate degree and medical degree from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine, Little Rock, in 1970. Hotchkiss completed his internship at the Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and served his residency in psychiatry at the University of Arkansas - Arkansas State Hospital. He concluded post-graduate education with training in public health at the Kansas University Medical Center and the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

His public health career includes work experience with the Arkansas State Department of Health, the Missouri State Department of Health, the Kansas City Missouri Department of Health, and the Mississippi State Department of Health in program areas of community health, maternal and child health, and preventive health. He previously served as health officer for Coastal Plains Public Health District, headquartered in Gulfport.

Hotchkiss, who resides in Brandon, is a member of various organizations: American Medical Association, AOA Medical Honor Society, Mississippi Medical Society, Central Medical Society, American Academy of Family Practice, American Public Health Association, Arkansas Public Health Association, and the Mississippi Public Health Association. He is licensed and certified to practice in Mississippi, Missouri, and Arkansas.

kas:7/17/00